



INSIDE INDIA

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National Immunization Day



USAID Mission Director/A, Beth Hogan, and members of the USAID Population, Health and Nutrition team were at Rashtrapati Bhavan, the official residence of the President of India, on February 1 to help launch National Immunization Day. President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil and Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Dr. Anbumani Ramdoss, administered polio drops to children who were on hand and spoke about the importance of immunization for all of India's children.

USAID Partner Receives Congressional Recognition

OneWorld South Asia (OWSA), an NGO that uses information and communication technology to promote sustainable development and human rights in the region, was recently honored with a Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition from the office of U.S. Representative Anna Eshoo (D-CA) for its work on the innovative LifeLines program. An easy to use phone based helpline service that gives users in remote areas access to information and technology, the program was first launched in the agricultural sector to meet the information needs of rural farmers in India. Following the success of the agriculture program, a pilot LifeLines Education program was launched in January, with USAID assistance, in the state of West Bengal. OWSA is a partner in QUEST, the public-private alliance in education initiated by USAID. LifeLines Education uses a similar phone-based service to link teachers working in remote areas with a network of education experts who offer them critical instructional aid and subject related guidance and advice.

When Climate Change and Natural Disasters Converge

USAID representatives participated in a workshop and panel discussion on disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation sponsored by the National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM), the Institute for Social and Environmental Transition (ISET), and Winrock International India. An important outcome of the workshop and panel discussion was agreement to develop a framework to demonstrate where disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation converge. There was also agreement that, though there are limitations to using cost-benefit analysis, the results of studies from Nepal, India, and Pakistan indicate that more case studies on the costs and benefits of disaster risk reduction activities should be done and the results compiled for use by policy makers.